

# MARBLE HILL PRESS.

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## OUR CORRESPONDENTS

### SCOPUS.

News items are scarce this week; drowned out I suppose.

Judge Long united with the Methodist church at Cole's chapel Sunday last.

F. M. Cole, who has been ailing for sometime, is able to be out.

Mrs. L. Page is on the sick list; also a small child of Henry Jackson.

Rev. Schrader is conducting one of those grand old revival meetings at Bollinger's church this week.

Henry Lincoln is making rails and clearing land on his farm, where he recently built him a neat frame house. Henry is a hustler.

Our merchant, H. B. Cole, is doing a booming business.

And now Jasper Wright and Laura Stone walk the path of double blessedness, having been married on Sunday last.

Jonathan Yount and family, of near Patton, visited friends and relatives here this week. UNO.

### CROSS ROADS.

Here I am again with a few items.

Health is somewhat improved. Little Avery Sample has typhoid fever.

Several of our citizens attended circuit court this week.

O. K. Kirkpatrick went to Zalma Saturday.

Miss Anna Sample enrolled as a student at the M.-S. academy Monday; and still they come, and the growth of the school is steady.

Eli Winters visited his nephew, Mr. Myers, Saturday. I was very sorry to learn that Mr. Myers is very low with typhoid fever.

Rev. W. A. Davault visited his mother-in-law, Elizabeth Wilford, Sunday.

Mrs. Wm. Berry started to Glen Allen Thursday and had the misfortune to break her new buggy, no serious damage done.

Rev. Mr. Bess, district missionary, began a protracted meeting at New Salem church Sunday. May the Lord bless the meeting and many souls be saved.

Married—At the residence of the bride's parents, on March 13, A. T. Kirkpatrick to Miss Victoria Grimley. May their life be one vast expanse of happiness.

BLOSSOM.

### PATTON.

Owing to the wet weather the farmer has not made much progress toward their crops yet.

Wheat is looking very bad. A number of farmers are talking of plowing it up and putting in other grain. I don't think there will be more than a half crop.

Several of our folks are attending court this week.

Hahn & Bollinger are getting along fine with their mill. They will be ready to start up in about two weeks.

Assessor Hawn is building a fine barn.

I understand that Dr. Frank O'Kelley is going to be with us this summer.

I understand that the Orten boys have bought the Statler property and will put up a blacksmith shop.

There has been several weddings here this winter, and from way things look they are not near over yet.

H. F. Bollinger went to Cape county last week on business.

Excuse a short communication this week, for news seems to be scarce. PATTONITE.

### GLEN ALLEN.

Why were you not out at prayer meeting Thursday night? Can't be very much interested if you let that little rain scare you.

Our Sunday school has seventy-five scholars.

There will be two prayer meetings every week. Tuesday night at the Baptist church and Wednesday night at M. E. church.

Died—Miss Effie Eaker, at her home last week. Her remains were laid to rest by the side of her sister in the Glen Allen cemetery.

Listen for wedding bells. Six are reported to take place soon.

N. A. Zimmerman will return to work in Louisiana this week.

Miss Clara Snyder was visiting her parents here Sunday.

Miss May Lochlin likes to watch the pump across the wood-pile.

James P. Walker will return to his work at Lakeville this week.

Miss Will Sumner now occupies part of Mrs. Bud Berry's residence.

Rev. L. L. Pinnell's little daughter is sick.

Several of our young people attended church at Lutesville Sunday night. We advise the girls to look out how they drive, as some ones' sweetheart might get his neck broke.

We sympathize with Mr. Eddie since Mr. Upchurch has been coming this way.

Dr. Berry is still on the mend and ready to go any time he may be needed.

Where was Elmer Sunday? Did he sleep late, or did she say no?

A Sander and wife were visiting in our town last week.

Miss Agnes Whitener visited her cousin here last week.

Mr. Wann, at the depot, looks broken-hearted. Cheer up, brighter days are coming.

Charley Riggs is strictly in it now. He gets a girl on each wing and up the railroad he goes.

Jake Berry seems to be in good spirits. Guess they have made up.

A. H. Dunn was in town last week and treated the girls on candy. Come again Mr. Dunn, is what the girls say.

Miss Cora is very sad. She got a letter from the Cape and he has the measles.

Mrs. John Green is sick at this writing.

Mrs. Josie Walker has just returned home, where she would be pleased to wait upon all who may wish to purchase goods.

W. E. J.

### CEDAR BRANCH.

Having seen nothing from this neck o'-the woods, I will try to give you a few items.

Health is good in this community at present.

Miss Columbia Yount, who is attending the M.-S. academy, was visiting the folks at home Saturday and Sunday. She reports school progressing nicely.

Grandma Cole was visiting the family of F. Page last Thursday.

Henry Schrock moved last week.

Miss Lydia Upchurch visited the family of L. Page one day last week.

A. E. Upchurch says he supposes he will have to remain single as there seems to be no hope for him.

Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Upchurch were visiting the family of R. E. Upchurch Sunday.

Services at the Hurricane church Sunday and Monday night.

Miss Hattie Hembree is visiting relatives near Zalma.

Success to THE PRESS.

BELLE.

### SCOPUS.

Health is fairly good in this locality.

F. M. Cole is still ailing.

H. James was in Lutesville Saturday and Sunday.

W. R. Farrar is making a new picket fence around his garden and otherwise improving his farm.

Our merchant, H. B. Cole, shipped 775 dozen eggs last week. Confidence has been restored at last.

The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. DeWhitt is yet very sick.

A. J. Lincoln was visiting near Mount Carmel Saturday and Sunday. The 'Squire informs us that he has some carpenter work to do in that neighborhood this spring.

Handsome George P. Cole was circulating among his friends at this place Sunday and Monday. George has just returned from Dunklin county, where he has been looking for a spring term of school.

Pink and Lee Mayfield, also Miss Columbia Yount of M.-S. academy, came home Saturday and returned Sunday.

H. B. Cole attends church regular

at Nichols chapel, no wonder, for something other than church matters attract his attention down there.

There seems to be no excitement whatever over the candidates for school commissioner, while the office is not such a paying one, yet it is one of the most important in the county.

### A DEMOCRAT.

#### Not to be Outdone.

Rival druggists occupy opposite corners in the mission, and competition is very sharp between them. Not long ago one of them hung up a placard announcing that he would give his patrons three stamps for a nickel. He gave them two two-cent stamps and one one-cent stamp. But his rival was not to be outdone in making a pretense of generosity, and now he has out a placard which reads:

"Thirteen two-cent stamps for a cent and a quarter."

This is no bluff, either. Whoever gives him a cent and a quarter (of a dollar) gets thirteen two-cent stamps.—San Francisco Post.

Tennessee has a moonshiner who claims—though not over his signature—that he has conducted an illicit distillery for twenty years, has grown rich on the profits and yet has never been arrested by the revenue detectives.

#### The Elephant in Warfare.

The elephant has become one of the most important adjuncts of the English army in India. He is attached to the artillery in every sense of the word and drags the biggest guns as if they were feathers, keeping a steady pace with the tramp, tramp, tramp of the infantry. He is no laggard at any time and deep indeed must be the mire and high the barricade which he cannot walk through or demolish. In one respect the elephant in artillery is like Napoleon—he never knows defeat.

The officers and men of the Indian army have for years been working with the idea of making the elephant more and more useful. At first the big beast was used on the fortifications for hauling timber and all kinds of tasks for which great strength, absolute obedience and docility were required. The elephant is not a particularly intelligent beast, and therefore his progress has been slow along the lines laid down by the disciples of Mars. Now he knows as well what to do as the best posted artilleryman and will bring his gun to the regimental front with as much precision as the veriest martinet who wields the sword could desire.

The particular use to which the elephant is put in the artillery line in India, is as a beast of draught for the heavy batteries and for the siege train. These instruments of war are tremendous in size and exceedingly heavy. Until the regime of the elephant, it had been the custom to have them drawn by long lines of bullocks. There was, however, no end of trouble with these beasts. They were hard to control and so many of them were required that they proved a good deal of a nuisance. So it is that the British artilleryman rejoices at the substitution of the elephant for the bullock. One elephant will draw without effort a piece of artillery which a long line of bullocks would have difficulty in moving at all.

Every one of these heavy batteries which the elephant moves from place to place consists of four 40-pounders, and 6 and 3-inch howitzers. While one elephant can draw, if necessary, a single piece of artillery, in order not to strain him at all they are sometimes paired or driven tandem. For instance, in such a battery just described, twelve elephants are utilized. These are not all employed in drawing the artillery at the same time, for it is well not to work an elephant too hard, because if that is done, he is apt to become stubborn, despite his usual tractability. For this reason the elephants are given

kindly usage and under those circumstances do all that is asked of them.

The elephant battery, or rather the guns thereof, is always accompanied by ammunition wagons and baggage. Owing to the fact that the supply of properly trained elephants is limited, bullocks are still utilized as the beasts of draught for the battery accompaniments. The fact that 262 bullocks are required to draw the ammunition and baggage forms a striking contrast between their powers and those of the elephants, for the gross weight of the ammunition and the baggage is infinitely less than that of the artillery itself.

The British artillerymen do not attempt to manage the big beasts that draw the guns. To accomplish this task, there is employed a staff of twelve mahouts, with twelve assistants, the latter being under the command of an official known as jemadar, or captain. All are natives of India. Then, besides the elephant company, as it is called, there are with each battery a jemadar, six sirdas and 131 drivers who care for the bullocks. Therefore, it can be seen that a battery or artillery in India amounts to something. In fact, it is a little army in itself, for every one of the natives employed is supposed to be competent and ready to fight if necessary.

Whenever it happens that the battery is to be transported a great distance, the railroad is used as an aid, if it can possibly be made available. In such cases it is necessary, of course, to transport the elephants by rail, and special cars have been made for the purpose. These cars are in appearance like the ordinary coal car on an American railroad, the sides being about one-half the height of a box car. At one end of the car is a small house in appearance, with one end omitted. In this little house sits the mahout, or attendant of the elephant, who sees that during the journey he does not become frightened, and has no opportunity of injuring himself. Over the rest of the car is a framework. There are three steel posts at each side. Running lengthwise and attached to these are two sections of steel about the size of the ordinary pine board.

At the end, blocking up an opportunity of egress, are two small steel beams of the size of the scantling. From the highest of the sections of steel on the side rises a thin piece of steel to a height which carries it just clear of the elephant. Running from the top of these small pieces of steel in the form of the letter V is another steel section, and the whole prevents the elephant from rising or sitting down. He must lie down entirely or stand up straight. Straight across the car and attached to the lower section of steel on the sides, is a big beam that keeps the elephant from being thrown against the end of the car by a sudden jolt. Entrance and exit from the car are made by means of a heavy platform. In this way the elephant is able to move by means of the railroad from place to place without fear of injury.

#### The Helpful Letter-Writing Bureau.

The Mayhew children had made their Century-books, as described in last month's "At Home," filed them away in their little library, and referred to them almost continually—"either to find out something from them or to tell them something new," as Alice laughingly asserted. But one stormy March Saturday they did not feel like delving into the past any more, and as usual fell back upon their uncle, who liked to spend a good deal of his time in reading, to know what to do with themselves.

"Well," said Uncle Jack, pushing his gold spectacles away to the top of his head, "I can understand about what's the matter with you. You can't feed entirely on the past in your amusements. You need more 'now' in them."

"Yes, give us some 'now,' Uncle

Jack," they all cried, almost together.

"I will," said the uncle, "in a minute. But I haven't told you all the trouble yet. You are living too much 'within yourselves.'"

"In order to get a new and refreshing kind of amusement, suppose you go to work and amuse others a little—those who are cheerless and helpless and sad."

"When can we get them to come?" asked Alice.

"Oh, but they can't come here very well," replied the uncle. "You must go and find them."

"And hunt and hunt and hunt?" inquired Ethel.

"You won't have to hunt very long, or very far. There's somebody suffering not so very great a distance from you all the time. I know where there are a lot of them all together."

"In the hospital," said Uncle Jack, gravely. "When I was caught in San Francisco with the broken knee, and went to the hospital because I was so far away from home and needed scientific attendance and good nursing, I found a great many people that, besides being sick, were very sad and despondent. I had a pretty good time myself, for I am a great reader, have good eyes, a lovely pair of spectacles, and a cheerful disposition; and then I had a letter from one or the other of you every two or three days, and that kind of warmed me up."

"Did it really warm you up, Uncle Jack?" asked Ethel, playing with his watch chain.

"Yes," said the uncle, "and you have no idea how much a good, pleasant letter helps one. Now I'll tell you what you can do right in that line; and it will be one of the finest amusements you ever enjoyed."

"Go to two or three hospitals, and get acquainted with inmates. Talk with them, and they will probably tell you some of their history. Get interested in them, and when you come away, tell them you are going to write to them."

"But what shall we say when we write?" asked Alice.

"Write just as you would to a friend," replied Uncle Jack. "Tell them what you are doing—what you are enjoying—what you are suffering. Don't brag too much—people in misfortune like to know you are having a good time, may be, but they do not care to get it told to them too often in italics. Say a good deal in your letter about them."

"You have no idea what an excitement it makes in a hospital, when mail-time comes. 'Is there any letter for me today?' is perhaps the one question oftenest asked there. I have seen patients lose their heart and courage and grow sicker in a very little while, on account of the failure to receive an expected letter. You have no idea how much good you can do in this way. People's minds and hearts needs nursing, just as much as their bodies."

The Mayhew children were energetic little creatures, and carried their hearts with them in every act, and it was not many days before each of them had half a dozen correspondents among the poor, the sick, and the despondent.

I was thus that the Helpful Letter-Writing Bureau came to be established.

The letters that went out from it contained all sorts of good things: good wishes, good hopes, good information, good jokes, good promises (always fulfilled); good cheer of all kinds. Often a dainty flower-blossom was folded carefully in, and sometimes a little money.

The letters that came back to it were in all sorts of handwriting—some of it very rude; but they never differed from each other in one thing; they were full of thanks and real gratitude. And the Mayhew children soon decided that they were getting more real pleasure out of the Helpful Letter-Writing Bureau, than they were ever out of the Century books.—Will Carleton's Every Where.